

The past year was one of firsts and fruition. The Council was able to achieve many new things - through the support of individuals interested in the arts but chiefly because of Governor Rockefeller's vision and a legislative appropriation that was the largest in its history. The tally marks on the cover of this report reflect increased services that the appropriation made possible.

Of the \$20.2 million that the New York State Legislature voted the Council, by far the greatest part—\$18 million—went directly to nearly six hundred applicants under what the Council itself refers to as Aid to Cultural Organizations (ACO), with \$2.3 of the \$18 million designated for the research facilities of the New York Public Library and the balance broadly distributed. In the great majority of cases such aid allowed existing groups and institutions to expand public service, but a considerable number of organizations were saved from extinction and many others were rescued from the threat of sharply curtailed activity. Aid to Cultural Organizations provided innumerable art services for young people in schools, colleges, libraries, museums, and community art centers; helped support more than two thousand free or low-priced performances and 384 new productions in theatre, dance, music, and opera; underwrote 3,057 weeks of arts workshops in storefronts, studios, museums, and community centers; and contributed toward the organization of one hundred exhibitions. The remaining \$2.2 million of the total appropriation went for administration of the Council and for the continued support of its established activities.

If 1970-71 was a year in which the Council realized on a larger scale the aims it has pursued throughout its history, it was also one of exploration and development. Educational television, multimedia, literature, community projects in the visual arts, and aid to local arts councils - each of which Council activity had only touched before - are all fields where it has now made major endeavors. Above all, the past year was one in which the Council investigated multilevel cooperation between cultural organizations.

Already we can look with satisfaction at the mutual benefits that have derived from our State's symphony orchestras working in close partnership with the music departments of our colleges and universities. We can also point with considerable pride to the many instances in which major New York State museums have developed special projects for schools and community groups, and also to the sharing of problems and solutions that has come about through Council-sponsored meetings involving regional historical societies, small science museums, and natural science centers. Further instances of collaboration came from the Council's support of regional equipment pools which opened new avenues of experiment in film, video, and other audio-visual techniques for teachers and small groups throughout the State.

I would like to call attention to one other facet of the Council's 1970-71 activities—its new attention to long-range help for the arts. Two of the most impressive figures that our research has developed are an estimate of almost \$6 billion of capital investment in our State's arts institutions, and another in excess of \$300 million for those institutions' annual operating expenses. They are large figures and they call for long-range thinking rather than attention merely to the present moment. The past year has been one in which we have not only come aware of them but one in which we have sought to meet their challenge.

Seymour H. Knox